

EXPERIMENT: WATERING THE LAND

This experiment can be used to support learning for Activity Cards RUN OFF, STORMWATER, FLOW, SILT and SEDIMENT.

PURPOSE

To observe what happens to rain water when it lands on a variety of surfaces.

EQUIPMENT

- One tin can for each group
- Water
- grassed area
- paved area
- dirt area
- stop watch

PROCEDURE

1. Cut both ends out of a tin
2. Place the tin on the bitumen in the school yard and slowly pour water into the tin. Observe where the water flows after 5 minutes
3. Repeat experiment on a grassy area
4. Repeat experiment on dirt

RESULTS

- Record what happens to the water.

CONCLUSIONS

- Where might these pollutants end up?
- When might rain be neither absorbed by the ground nor evaporated?

Hint: introduce students to the term 'impervious surfaces'.

SOLVING THE CRIME

- In which crime sites is there a problem with run-off and the pollutants carried by the water?
- Could any of the victims be harmed by pollutants carried in run off?